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UCAPAWA News

VOL. I. — NO. 1

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AUGUST 1941

PROGRESS SINCE THIRD CONVENTION

(NOTE: Since this is the first issue of the UCAPAWA NEWS to appear since the third National Convention in December 1940, it has seemed advisable to give to the leaders and members of the union a brief summary report on the general progress made organizationally throughout the country following the Third Convention; most of this report was made to the International Executive Board at their last meeting in June.)

By Donald Henderson, General President

Since the Third Convention UCAPAWA has witnessed its most rapid growth and success in organizing new plants and in increasing the number of workers protected by union contracts. This has been particularly extensive in the food processing and tobacco fields. Thirty-one new plants have been organized and contracts negotiated and signed. These plants have a total year-round employment of approximately 7100 workers and reach a peak seasonal employment of 12,000 workers. The following table shows the gains here since the Convention:

	3rd Convention	June 30, 1941
No. of Contracts	158	189
No. of Workers under Contract;		
Normal	13,169	20,269
Seasonal Peak	19,670	31,670
No. of Companies Covered	223	253
No. of Plants Covered	276	307

In addition to these plants where contracts have been sealed, signed, and delivered, negotiations now in progress in 14 other plants where NLRB elections have been won or organizational work completed. These contracts will cover about 4675 workers.

While there is not sufficient room to break these figures down into an industry analysis, most of these new plants and contracts cover important firms in the food processing, tobacco (cigar), grain and cereal, and cotton processing (compress and seed oil) fields. Further, in following out the policy laid down at the Third Convention, our main concentration and success has been in the larger cities and the larger more stable year round firms.

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Organize Now

Membership Backs up Executive Board on Assessment

The assessment passed by the local unions by a three to one majority reflects the will of UCAPAWA members to back up the CIO's program 100 per cent to "Organize, organize, organize."

"Never before has the UCAPAWA had the rich opportunity which it has today to build its strength and thereby to win better conditions for all food and allied workers, organized and unorganized," said Harold Lane, secretary-treasurer. "The membership has had the vision to see this and to dig down and pay for the job."

Preliminary plans for the drive were made by the International Executive Board at its meeting June 7-9 in Chicago when Board members rolled up their sleeves for three days and came to grips with UCAPAWA organizing problems. Unmistakable conclusion was that UCAPAWA must launch an all-out organizing drive at this time. The CIO tide is running high on top of such recent victories as those in mines, steel and Ford. The ground swell is rising also in UCAPAWA as shown in the Progress Report. (See column 1.)

Money to consolidate and increase these gains is essential.

These facts and conclusions were presented in detail to the locals when the Executive

(Continued on page 3)

New Face of UCAPAWA NEWS

Here is the first issue of a condensed UCAPAWA News which will be published on the first and third Fridays of each month.

Chief facts concerning UCAPAWA will get to the locals promptly in this way.

Local union press agents please note. Your cooperation is needed.

The UCAPAWA NEWS

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Labor Board Elections Big Vote for UCAPAWA

Overwhelming support to UCAPAWA has been registered in recent Labor Board elections.

The record shows that from December, 1940, to August 1, 1941, UCAPAWA won 14 out of a total 17 elections. Seven out of every ten workers who voted chose UCAPAWA.

Tital vote in these elections was 6,614 of which 4,542 votes, or 69%, were chalked up to UCAPAWA.

Here is the record plant by plant:

	For UCAPAWA	Against	
Federal Compress Co. Memphis, Tennessee	23	3	Won
J. R. Watkins Memphis, Tennessee	67	16	Won
De Soto Oil Company Memphis, Tennessee	76	15	Won
OK Storage Company Memphis, Tennessee	16	0	Won
Humphrey Mills (Cross Check) Memphis, Tennessee	70	7	Won
Webster-Eisenlohr Cigar Co., Inc. Detroit, Mich.	344	32	Won
Larus & Bros. Richmond, Va.	272	45	Won
Franklin Peanut Co. Franklin, Virginia	83	8	Won
Merchants Biscuit Co. Denver, Colorado	97	186	Lost
Vita Foods, Inc. New York City	81	151	Lost
Consolidated Cigar Co. Lancaster, Pennsylvania	167	271	Lost
Campbells Soup Camden, New Jersey	1,918	991	Won
P. Lorillard Tobacco Co. La Crosse, Wisconsin	13	1	Won
Van Camps Seafood Co., Inc. San Diego, Calif.	451	99	Won
R. R. Dunn (Diesel-Wemmer-Gilbert Co.) Detroit, Michigan	239	17	Won
Consolidated Cigar Corporation Camden, New Jersey	584	230	Won
Berth David Cemetery Elmont, Long Island, N. Y.	41	0	Won

Legislation and Government

CIO Licks Anti-Labor Bills

A stiff and well-fought CIO campaign to defeat the anti-labor bills in Congress resulted in a decisive victory on July 29 when the House turned down the revised Connally amendment to S. 1524 by a vote of 225 to 114. The Connally amendment would have authorized the government to operate plants where production is stopped. In practice it would mean giving Congressional authority to use of the Army and Navy as strikebreakers.

Strength of the campaign was due to the basic strength of the CIO which combines an active membership with courageous and far-sighted leadership.

Unions did not leave the job up to a few outstanding CIO leaders in Washington alone. To back up these leaders UCAPAWA, along with other CIO unions sent representatives to Washington to talk and reason with Congressmen and the membership bombarded their representatives with communications.

Thanks to UCAPAWA

John T. Jones, CIO legislative representative, sent his thanks and "the thanks of the CIO" to the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing, and Allied Workers of America for the "extraordinarily fine job" done by UCAPAWA representatives in the work against anti-labor legislation.

Representing UCAPAWA in Washington were Donald Henderson, general president; Armando Ramirez, an international vice-president; William Robbins and William Haber, International Organizers; Anna O'Brien, president Local 207, and Benjamin Freedman.

"Our work with Congressmen in Washington would have lost 50 per cent of its effect," said Donald Henderson, "if it had not been supported by local unions and members telling their Congressmen to lay off anti-labor bills. UCAPAWA members have done a good job."

Battle Still On

Events have proven that such a campaign brings results. Although the spear-head of the attack was the now defeated Connally amend-

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"REMEMBER CLARICH" Honor Roll

Locals 7-2, 68, 105, 110, 186, 232 237, 273, 638.

Is your local on this honor roll?

Progress Since Third Convention

(Continued from page 1)

Outstanding among these cities are Camden, N. J.; Chicago, Ill.; Detroit, Mich.; and Memphis, Tenn.

Finally, so far as contracts are concerned, your International Office is aware of only two minor concerns failing to renew more satisfactory contracts among the large numbers which have come up for renewal during the past seven months. A detailed annalysis of the new contracts and re-negotiated contracts as to wage increases and other important clauses will have to be delayed until the next issue of this paper for lack of space.

Streamlining the Organizational Work

Following the changes adopted at the Third Convention to centralize all available funds in the International Office instead of scattering them in small pools within the Districts, the new system was fully installed throughout the Union by June 1. In all non-district areas this was done as early as April 1, and in most of the Districts by May 1. The results achieved under the new streamlined system already prove beyond our greatest hopes, the correctness of these moves.

Today, as a result of special conferences held throughout the country in selected cities and areas, joint arrangements have been made with locals, and groups of locals in given areas so that extensive organizing campaigns are progressing with both the International Office and the local leadership and members participating in organization work, in financing campaign, and in negotiating contracts.

Besides the International Officers, a total of eighteen International Organizers are being supported directly by the International Office. With the exception of two of these, joint arrangements have been made with Locals so the organizational expenses are borne by the Locals. In most cases the Locals also are supporting Local Organizers who work jointly with the International Representatives.

Below is a summary of the main conferences held and the organizing campaigns under way:

Virginia Conference

In April a conference of all Virginia locals was held where joint arrangements were completed for a full time International Organizer to head a Virginia Organizing Committee representing all the locals. A special fund was created, contributed to by each local on a prorata membership basis for covering all organizational expenses. Plans were adopted for concentration on Richmond, Virginia tobacco plants and food processing plants and on cleaning up the main peanut plants. Bob Himmaugh is in charge of this area with his headquarters in Richmond, Va.

Philadelphia-Camden Conferences

Several conferences have been held. At present Local 80 in Camden, N. J., and Local 186 in Philadelphia, Pa., are pushing organizing campaigns in the food and tobacco fields. Each local defrays all organizing expenses in its territory. The International has one organizer in Camden and two in Philadelphia. Each local is also supporting a full-time organizer to assist us in tobacco.

There are around 18,000 cigar workers in the Camden-Philadelphia area with the key plants of the three or four largest companies: Consolidated, Bayuk, General, and American Cigar Companies. The Consolidated Cigar plant in Camden, employing 800, has just won its NLRB election by close to a 3 to 1 vote. Negotiations are now in progress there. In Philadelphia organizing work is going forward in two Consolidated plants employing 1,200 and contact work has started on Bayuk, employing 5,000, and on American Cigar.

John Tisa is in charge of the organizing campaign in this area, assisted by International Organizers Jack Eppley and Betty Sheldon and Local Organizer Bill Robbins.

New York-Brooklyn-Newark Conference

In the middle of June a conference of all locals, attended by 25 delegates, set up a Metropolitan Organizing Committee, voted voluntary contributions by the locals to cover organizing expenses, and mapped out organizing campaigns in the three cities. The compaigns concentrated on food processing plants, cigar plants, and cemeteries. Reports indicate that in addition to a new cemetery election won, three tobacco plants are nearly ready for elections and one food plant is negotiating a contract.

International Vice-Pres. Armando Ramirez is in charge of the organizing campaign assisted by local organizers from all the locals.

(Continued in next issue)

ORGANIZE NOW!

(Continued from page 1)

Board's assessment recommendation went out.

First payment of the assessment is due Aug. 1 and the second on Oct. 1. Agricultural locals and canned salmon locals are exempt from the assessment. Workers in the canned salmon industry assessed themselves two years ago and completely organized that branch of the industry.

Every cent of the assessment will go into the Organizing Fund for industrial locals.

Prompt payment of the assessment is the order of the day. **Build UCAPAWA now!**

CIO Licks Anti-labor Bills

(Continued from page 2)

ment to the Draft Bill, anti-labor Congressmen will get up their steam again for an attack again through other bills which are already introduced.

The CIO can promise these gentlemen another rousing run for their money and another rout.

The fight to preserve unions free from hamstringing and destructive laws is part of the fight for democracy. Today the CIO is the advance guard of the American people in their ancient struggle for a richer life.

"Cooling-off" periods in time of labor disputes, forced arbitration, and army and navy strikebreaking would pull the teeth of the unions. Without effective unions in operation American people would approach the slave status of the common people in fascist Germany.

Congressmen who voice the demands of reactionary groups who would "curb" labor are not serving the democratic American people. The CIO in stopping such plans is truly serving democratic America.

Story of the Campaign

Chief events in the CIO's recent historic campaign against anti-labor bills are as follows:

Early in June a workers' lobby consisting of more than 200 CIO union representatives worked in Washington to stop the "curb labor" hysteria in Congress.

Of the various bills threatening, the Vinson bill providing for compulsory arbitration and the wire-tapping bills looked most serious. At this time the wire-tapping bill was beaten and the Vinson bill shelved.

Thus the first round was won by this hard-working CIO lobby and by the steady barrage of letters and wires of protest from back home.

But a more serious threat arose in the form of the Connally-May amendment to the draft bill. Official administration support was given this bill through such leaders as House Speaker Rayburn. Although the scheme was to put the bill over quickly, CIO pressure forced postponement of debate until July 8.

Full strength of the CIO was mobilized in a legislative conference called by President Murray for July 7.

At this meeting of all CIO unions, John L. Lewis, Philip Murray, and John T. Jones, as well as a number of other CIO leaders, voiced the determination of CIO members to defeat the bills by an all-out attack.

Philip Murray said that "never in the history of organized labor has there been such a concerted effort on the part of certain of our legislative representatives in the Federal Congress to defeat the aims of labor."

John T. Jones informed the conference that "while professing friendship for labor and claiming labor's support on the basis of that friendship, the majority leadership has pursued an anti-labor course." Jones called for an accounting from these fair weather "friends of labor."

No Compromise: John L. Lewis

Warning labor not to be misled by those "friends of labor" who would lead labor into a noose, John L. Lewis called on the CIO to "continue to be a fighting organization" that does not cringe or apologize or yield but battles right down the line for the workers' interests.

Committees from the Conference called on President Roosevelt, Vice-President Wallace, House Speaker Rayburn and other Congressional leaders to notify them of the stand of the CIO Conference.

On June 10 all anti-labor sections in the May-Connally bill were defeated in the House by a 220 to 149 vote.

On July 29 the House turned down the compromise Connally amendment submitted by the House-Senate conference committee.

Cost of Living Jumps

Government figures prove that the cost of living situation is fast getting worse. In a period of only three months, from the middle of March to the middle of June this year, cost of living went up over three per cent.

"It is agreed in Washington . . . that there is now impending a wave of price increases . . .," according to the CIO's **Economic Outlook.** Leon Henderson, Administrator of OPACS, said recently, "The cost of living is bound to rise."

Total increase in cost of living since before the outbreak of the war in September, 1939, is 6.1%, according to official government figures (U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). In other words, in less than two years the dollar has become less than 94c in terms of what it will buy at the store.

Court to Enforce Salinas Decision

Salinas lettuce shed employers have been ordered by a Federal Court to stop breaking the law of the land (NLRA) and to reinstate workers who have been denied jobs since the time of the 1936 strike. Ten workers will get back pay from the autumn of 1936 to date.

Watch the next issue of the NEWS for the full story on this epoch making case in which UCAPAWA has scored a victory over powerful and ruthless anti-labor outfits.